General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 December 2002

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 66

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/57/510)*]

57/58. Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/33 D of 20 November 2000,

Stressing the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, a goal to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under its article VI,[1]

Recognizing that disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirming the necessity of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] and the necessity of upholding their commitments in associated decisions and final documents agreed upon at the 2000 and 1995 Review Conferences,

Noting the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued at The Hague on 8 July 1996,[3]

Noting the importance attached to the issue of reducing non-strategic nuclear weapons by the Secretary-General in his report to the Millennium Assembly,[4]

Stressing the commitment made in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference to the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons,[5]

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[1] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15:6.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[3] A/51/218, annex; see also *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 1996*, p. 226.

[4] See A/54/2000.

[5] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), part I, section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", para. 15:9.

Concerned that the total number of nuclear weapons deployed and in stockpile still amounts to many thousands,

Reiterating that it is the particular responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States for transparent, verifiable and irreversible reductions of nuclear weapons, leading to nuclear disarmament,

Emphasizing that further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded priority and be carried out in a comprehensive manner,

1. *Agrees* that reductions and elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be included as an integral part of the nuclear-arms reduction and disarmament process;

2. *Agrees also* that reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be carried out in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner;

3. *Agrees further* on the importance of preserving, reaffirming, implementing and building upon the 1991 and 1992 presidential nuclear initiatives of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics/Russian Federation on non-strategic nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls upon* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to formalize their presidential nuclear initiatives into legal instruments and to initiate negotiations on further effectively verifiable reductions of their non-strategic nuclear weapons;

5. *Stresses* the importance of special security and physical protection measures for the transport and storage of non-strategic nuclear weapons, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States in possession of such weapons to take the necessary steps in this regard;

6. *Calls* for further confidence-building and transparency measures to reduce the threats posed by non-strategic nuclear weapons;

7. *Calls also* for concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of non-strategic nuclear weapons systems;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons".

57th plenary meeting
22 November 2002